

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 16, 2013

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A Commitment to Safety

by Dave Nichols



Being safe every day takes a personal commitment. That's why we've changed how we talk about safety at MoDOT to be more personal. Our five safety messages were written by a group of MoDOT employees to explain your role each day in staying safe.

Your response to these messages has been so positive that we decided to use them as part of our new Safety Commitment. They've also found their way into our value statements, and you can expect to see them in all our safety materials.

Best of all, the messages are short and easy to remember. Try running through them before you begin each day's work. For those of you who work in safety sensitive jobs, we've put together a risk based assessment tool using the five safety messages. The tool is a great way to ramp up your daily safety discussion to focus on the specific hazards you might encounter.

We've also changed our logo to *Safety Begins With Me* to remind us all about our personal responsibility to work safely.

But slogans and messages are just words unless we put them into action. I need your commitment

to have a safe work environment at MoDOT. I need you to be willing to do whatever it takes so everyone goes home safe.

We're beginning a particularly busy season, so be safe out there.

**SAFETY
BEGINS
WITH ME**

Statewide Pothole Patrol a Success

by Holly Dentner

This spring MoDOT officially launched a statewide pothole initiative to address the seasonal crop of potholes that appear as the weather gets warmer. Despite some late season snowfall and even some flash flooding, more than 130,000 potholes were filled across the state.

"Potholes can appear any time of year, but the transition from winter to spring is when they are at their worst," said Todd Miller, maintenance liaison engineer. "Even though crews had to keep fighting snow and heavy rain, they made great progress keeping state routes in good shape."

"Missouri Pothole Patrol" ran through March and April. Crews tracked their progress as part of a special maintenance focus area challenge, and the Northwest District filled the most, coming in at about 40,000 potholes.

MoDOT also asked the public to help out with a public campaign that promoted the various ways to reach customer service.

"We rely on motorists to help spot road damage like potholes so they can be repaired promptly," said Miller. "We used Pothole Patrol as a way to encourage our customers to contact us any time they see something of concern."

Over 600 calls came through the customer service center reporting potholes during the patrol. While pothole patching is a great way to make quick road repairs, once the weather warms up those temporary patches will be replaced in with permanent repairs.

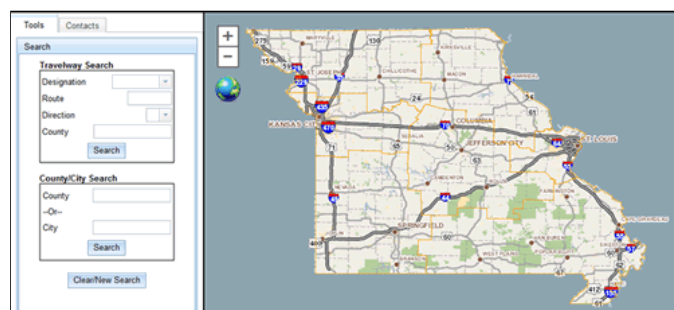


St. Louis maintenance crews fill potholes as part of a news conference in March.

New Contacts Map is One Stop Shop

by Marisa Ellison

One of the best things MoDOT has to offer is live customer service 24/7. While MoDOT can boast its 87 percent overall customer satisfaction, we continually strive to provide even more outstanding customer service. As a result, a new Contacts Map has been created to



allow quicker reference to people and activities at MoDOT, everything from highway road maintenance to construction projects to the adopt a highway coordinators.

"With the implementation of the bucket system last year, every customer service representative now has potential to, and frequently does, answer calls that come in from outside his or her respective district," said Mara Campbell, director of customer relations. "To help them find information more quickly, a team was created, and over the last several months has implemented this new resource. It takes the place of a variety of other resources, making it a one-stop shop for information," she explained.

Only part of the application can be used on a smart phone. The user will not be able to see much of the map, but they can search by county or city, and it will show the contact information for that area. The Android will not view internal sites because of a DNS problem; however, iPhone should work fine.

"Even though the map was developed with customer service representatives in mind, it can be used by everyone who has access to our intranet," Campbell said. The one-stop shop team appreciates all the feedback and input provided, and we will be visiting periodically about the Contacts Map and potential upgrades," she added.

The new Contacts Map is now available at <http://modotcontact/map/> (link works for active employees only). For more information about the Contacts Map, please contact Greg Clarkston or Marisa Ellison in Customer Relations.

Fast Facts - Six Million

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

If you are a certain age, you associate that number with 1970s television and Steve Austin, the bionic former-astronaut of the "Six Million Dollar Man." After medical intervention and the latest in secret bio-robotics, Steve could run faster, hear and see more acutely and jump higher than any bad guy on the planet.

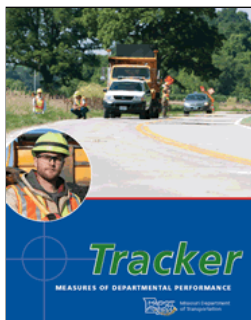
Now there's a new reason to etch six million into your memory. According to the 2011 Census estimate, Missouri is now home to 6,010,688 people.

Those folks need groceries, gasoline, consumer goods and a safe way to and from all the places they go. We at MoDOT help them get what they need and go where they want safely, efficiently and economically.

Every one of MoDOT's 5,100 employees is important. Six million depend on us!



What's Happening



What's New? Tracker

Our Tracker publication has a whole new look and feel. The revamp aligns with our new values and tangible results.

We have made changes to what we are tracking. Some measures are no longer reported in the statewide Tracker, other measures have been added and some existing measures have been tweaked.

The quarterly Tracker meeting is being held today. Staff are reviewing the results demonstrated in each measure as well as discussing the importance of the new tangible results and measures to MoDOT and to our customers.

Check it out on the web and see for yourself – [Tracker](#).



Mobile Tour Stop

MoDOT is still hitting the road with the mobile tour to continue the "On the Move" conversation. Central office ambassadors worked a Cinco de Mayo festival in St. Louis on Sat., May 4.

Ambassadors are taking the bright orange vehicles to events across the state to talk with and to hear citizen's ideas on transportation.

Pictured are Mike Shea (left) and Steve Billings. Machele Watkins, Mara Campbell and Rose Lucas also worked the event.

MoDOT Joins Missouri State Employee Recognition Week Celebrations

Missouri's annual State Employee Recognition Week, May 27-31, 2013, will honor the dedication and commitment of state employees.



In addition to the events and surprises taking place in divisions and districts, several businesses have special offers to recognize and thank public servants. Visit <http://serd.mo.gov/> and click on special offers to learn about discounts offered by sports teams, amusement parks and more!



April EAC Minutes

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's April meeting have been posted on the EAC website - [EAC Minutes](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



Win a MoDOT Centennial T Shirt!

Congratulations to recent winners, Terri Mount of the St. Louis District and Cindy Norman of Central Office who knew that our organization has never officially been named the Missouri Department of Awesome...at least not yet. Terri and Cindy won MoDOT Centennial T shirts.

Take part in the current centennial quiz on the MoDOT Sharepoint site for your chance to win. Enter online here: [Quiz](#) or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, May 24.

Question: In _____, a state constitutional amendment created the state highway commission.

- 1913
- 1921
- 1942
- 2015



Getting Connected

Have you seen the MPERS newsletter Getting Connected? The newsletter is posted on the MPERS website www.mpers.org under publications. Just some of the articles are:

- 2-Step Retirement Process (*deadlines and form names have been changed*)
- Pre-Retirement Seminar dates and how to register
- Benefit Basics Seminar
- Who to contact with benefit questions



Sweet Tweets

Now entering Missouri! Props to @MoDOT for making #HWY44 one of the best roads to drive on!

Driving the back roads US 54 & MO 5 across Missouri. These roads are fantastic.. great job @MoDOT.



Around the Web

Useful Tips from Other State Agencies

Are you ready for a getaway? The Missouri Division of Tourism is ready to tempt you with places to go and experiences to enjoy. Like their Facebook page to have the best of Missouri – and chances to win trips - delivered to your news feed. [Visit MO](#).



Organ and tissue donors preserve life. If you've thought about becoming a donor or need more information to make a decision, visit [Donate Life](#). Here you can register your wishes and learn the facts.

May Retirements

Roger Roof - NW - 31 years
Frederick Goetting - NW - 29 years
Stephon Williams - NE - 28 years
Robert Sanders - NE - 12 years
Kevin Shannon - KC - 31 years
William Sales - KC - 30 years

James Shipley - KC - 28 years
Warren Zeller - KC - 26 years
Patrick Neuman - CD - 31 years
Patricia Bates - CD - 29 years
Mark Giessinger - CD - 28 years
Larry Dummermuth - CD - 24 years

Mary Bruning - CD - 20 years
Diana Dinwiddie - CD - 15 years
Connie Wilson - SW - 21 years
Jerry Garner - SW - 13 years
Roy Harrison - SW - 8 years
Beverly Barnes - SE - 12 years

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Achieving Excellence

The Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report. The report covered state fiscal year 2012 with comparative data and was prepared by the Financial Services Division.

The certificate was awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. An impartial panel determined the report demonstrated a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the MTFC's financial story.

The report was prepared by Rich Bearden, Bev Schepers, Carol Kliethermes, Todd Grosvenor and Christina Wilkerson, all of Financial Services, and Mendy Sundermeyer of Information Systems.



Right, Rich Bearden, financial services specialist, accepts the certificate from Commissioner Grace Nichols (photo by Shaun Schmitz).

So Many Articles – Too Little Time: Learning About Journal Alerts Can Help!



Interested in keeping up with what a particular journal publishes, or new materials on a research topic, but feel like you don't have the time to do so? There's help! Join the library webinar *Setting Up Journal Alerts* on May 30 at 10 a.m. The webinar is limited to 25 attendees, so sign up early.

Using alerts, you can be automatically alerted via email or RSS feed when new issues of a journal or new articles matching your search are published. This 30-minute webinar will be co-presented by the MoDOT Librarian Renée McHenry and Sarah Irwin, training and outreach librarian at the Missouri State Library.

During the first half, Irwin will cover how to set up general alerts in EBSCO full text databases. During the second half, Henry will focus on setting up alerts using transportation and civil engineering databases. Questions? Please contact Henry for more information at 573-522-1948 or email renee.mchenry@modot.mo.gov.

Medicare Participants Thinking About the Shingles Vaccine Should Read This First

If you are covered under the MoDOT/MSHP Medicare Supplement Plan and thinking about getting the shingles vaccination you can get 100 percent coverage, no cost to you. However, you have to make sure you get your vaccination at an in-network pharmacy, not at a physician's office. Here's what you need to know:

- Starting Jan., 1, 2013, Medicare participants over the age of 50 can receive full coverage (100 percent) for Zostavax (shingles vaccination).
- You must use an in-network pharmacy, not a physician's office to get the vaccination.
- Just present your prescription drug card at an in-network pharmacy that administers the vaccination, and you pay nothing.
- If you receive the vaccination from a physician's office rather than an in-network pharmacy, the claim, including the cost of the vaccine, will be denied.



- This information was included in your 2013 Benefits Update sent to MoDOT/MSHP Medical Plan members in the fall of 2012.

Not a Medicare participant but interested in the vaccination? MoDOT employees who are not Medicare participants can also get the vaccination at no cost if over the age of 50. Those employees can receive the vaccination at an in-network physician's office or an in-network pharmacy. If you receive the vaccination out-of-network, it is not a covered service. This applies to all preventive benefits.

What's Happening at Central Office



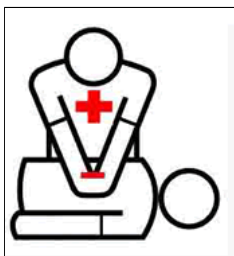
Outstanding Women of Missouri Exhibit Still on Display

The Outstanding Women of Missouri Exhibit is still on display. The exhibit is on loan from the Missouri Women's Council and is available until May 29. The display can be viewed from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the first floor at central office, in the vacated right of way area next to Chief Counsel's Office.

The exhibit features many of Missouri's most influential women who have helped shape our history through their contributions. Please take a few moments to visit the exhibit and learn about these amazing women.

A sign in sheet will be located near the entrance.

Please remember to sign in, so the number of attendees can be recorded. Employees are encouraged to leave comments or suggestions for future events.



Training Available

CPR and First Aid training classes are being offered to central office employees. Morning and afternoon classes are available. Classes are filling up fast so please sign up early. Additional classes will be scheduled over the coming weeks.

Location: HRED, Room B, 601 W. Main, Jefferson City

Wed., June 26	.	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Thu., June 27	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

To register, contact Danielle Thomas - Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-7860.

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Northwest District On Parade

Sixteen Mo DOT employees and family members participated in the Apple Blossom Parade in St. Joseph on May 4. It was a bit chilly and damp, but that didn't dampen the spirits of those who lined the parade route. Shouts of "There's Barrel Bob!" could be heard from many children and adults as Barrel Bob, Barrel Betty and Baby Bob made their way through the streets of St. Joseph.

Employees and family members rode in the On The Move van or walked the two-mile parade route alongside the truck and trailer with the Barrel Crew. Employees and family walking the route handed out candy to the younger parade watchers and Missouri maps to the older crowd who came out to enjoy the parade. More than 1,200 maps and 30 pounds of candy were handed out along the route.



The On The Move van led our float through the parade route.



Northwest District's float in the Apple Blossom parade included Barrel Bob, Barrel Betty and Baby Bob. Even though it was rainy, many people turned out to wave at the Barrel Crew and of course, to get candy.



Northwest District employees and families braved the chilly, misty morning to walk the parade route, handing out Missouri maps and candy.



It was cold and drizzly, but people were very happy to see us handing out Missouri maps!

Aviation Artists Recognized



Bryan Gregory, center, MoDOT's Aviation Operations Manager, presents plaques to

Two young St. Joseph students were recognized for their winning artwork. Kole Conaway and Emily Atwood were both first place winners at the state level in this year's International Aviation Art Contest, sponsored by the Missouri Department of Transportation and the National Association of State Aviation Officials.

Both Conaway and Atwood are students at St. James Elementary School in St. Joseph. They submitted poster artwork around the theme "My Favorite Sport" and could choose from one of 11 air sport competition categories chosen by Federation Aeronautic International, an organization which promotes air sports.

Conaway won first place in the junior age division with his drawing of a parachutist gliding toward the earth. Atwood, daughter of Senior Maintenance Worker Gregg Walkup, took first place in the senior division with her drawing of a barnstorming plane about to emerge from a red barn. Bryan Gregory,

Kole Conaway, left, and Emily Atwood during an assembly at their school.

Aviation Operations Manager for MoDOT, presented each winner with a plaque which includes a copy of their artwork.

On The Move Goes Mobile



Project Manager Wes Moore and Area Engineer Tonya Lohman had a small, but passionate group of people attend a public meeting in Milan, Mo. on May 14.



Area Engineer Mike Reinhart and Transportation Planning Manager Shannon Kusilek took On The Move to the Maryville Transportation Advisory Committee on May 7.



Area Engineer Mike Reinhart spent some time at Better Block St. Joe on Friday evening, May 10. Better Block features pop-up stores, artists and vendors in an effort to show what a revitalized downtown St. Joseph, Mo. could look like. On The Move took this opportunity to see what attendees felt a revitalized transportation department should focus on in the next 20 years.



Customer Relations Manager Melissa Black and Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy spent part of Saturday, May 11, gathering comments from Better Block St. Joe attendees.

Around the District



Assistant Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Dave Scrivens presented the Maintenance portion of the employee spring meeting in Chillicothe, held May 9.



District Design Engineer Troy Slagle presented to the final Spring Meeting, held at the District Office on May 13.



Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians to be attended a three-day training at the District Office May 14-16 sponsored by the Community Traffic Safety Task Force.



Kathy Zeniths, one of three instructors for the CPS Technician training, leads the first day of class. The seat in the picture is used to practice installing child passenger seats prior to the car seat check being held at the district office Thu., May 16, as part of the course.

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And the Winner Is...

During one of their regular roadside pickups, Adopt-A-Highway members from the Missouri United Credit Union of Mexico found some unscratched lottery tickets.

"One of the tickets was a winner, so we donated the money to a local charity," said Missy Ahrens, trash pick-up coordinator for the credit union.

As a result, the credit union entered its find into the "Show Me" Your Trash contest, which was part of the No MOre Trash! Bash sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and MoDOT.

"People were invited to submit entries of the most unusual or interesting items they had picked up while collecting litter on the roadside or in their communities," said Marisa Christy-Kerns, Adopt-A-Highway coordinator.

From the submitted entries, four finalists were selected. The public then had the opportunity the first week of May to vote on the finalist they felt should be the contest winner.

The United Credit Union is an active participant in the Adopt-A-Highway program and adopts a section of MO 22 through the city of Mexico. A presentation of the prizes will take place on May 16 in Mexico.

"We hope that everyone had fun with the contest, and we appreciate all the time and effort that individuals take to help keep our roadsides and communities clean!" Marisa added.



Fire Bugs to the Rescue

Ed Pyatt, Richard DeTienne and Danny Schwartz, all of New Florence Maintenance, have a new nickname.

They're not the three amigos or the three musketeers. However, they are "heroes" by their own right. The "Fire Bugs," as they have been affectionately named by co-workers for the past few weeks, stems from their quick, heroic actions to extinguish a car fire on I-70 last month.

"It was a Volkswagon Bug...I guess that's how we got the name," Pyatt revealed as he told the story of how he and his co-workers noticed a car on fire as they drove by.

"It was pretty well engulfed so we stopped to make sure no one was inside," Pyatt said.

It was vacant, so they grabbed the extinguisher and began putting it out.

"Then we heard a noise, and Danny found the gas line was leaking," he added. Danny quickly pinched the line, and Ed and Richard put out the fire.



Danny Schwartz, Richard DeTienne and Ed Pyatt, all of New Florence Maintenance, were recognized at the employee spring meeting for their quick response to a car fire on I-70.

On the Move



Tammy Wallace, senior customer relations specialist, and Beth Wright, state maintenance engineer, attended an OTM event at the Randolph County YMCA in Moberly.

Hillary Rodham-Clinton may have coined the phrase "It Takes a Village," yet during the On the Move initiative, nothing can top "It Takes A Team!" as demonstrated by coordination efforts among central office, the Northeast District, and the Kansas City District.

Not wanting to miss the opportunity to survey up to 400 residents of the Moberly area, the Northeast District called on assistance from the entire OTM team to help cover the event. "State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright and Tammy Wallace are true ambassadors for MoDOT, adjusting their personal schedules and giving up a Saturday," said Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager.

Around the District...



On May 3, snow fell in Adair County and Schuyler County in the Northeast District resulting in the activation of winter operations yet again.

Yes, there is a Santa Claus...and snow in May. Just when we thought Mother Nature was going to give us a break, enough snow fell in the northern part of the Northeast District to warrant activation of winter operations... again! The snow fell primarily in Adair County and Schuyler County on May 3.

"We had around a half inch of sleet and snow, so maybe this is the final one for the season," said Dana Robinson, maintenance supervisor at Lancaster Maintenance. "It doesn't look like it in the picture, but the roads were covered when I came in early that morning," he added.

Dana said that one of the "old timers" in Schuyler County said he only remembered it snowing one other time in May back in the 1960's.



Pictured is the bridge pour that took place on May 1 at the new overpass being constructed at South Lincoln Drive in Troy.

On May 1, a bridge pour took place on the new overpass that is being constructed at South Lincoln Drive in Troy.

Construction on the overpass began in September 2012 and is expected to be completed by fall 2013. Iron Mountain Trap Rock Company out of Iron Mountain, Missouri is the contractor on the job. The new interchange will have three roundabouts. The entire project will cost about \$5 million.

A 5K "roundabout run" is being planned by a local resident in conjunction with the opening later this summer.

With the implementation of the hard hat and safety glasses policy, employees now need to have their PPE with them at all times. To better accommodate this, safety bags were handed out to each employee at the spring meetings in April and May, so that employees would have an easy way to carry their equipment with them.



Travis Gregory and Jason Wilkerson, from Moberly maintenance, are shown receiving their safety bags at the spring meeting from Andrea Bland, senior risk management technician.



On May 8 and May 13, an AARP Safe Driver Class was held at the Senior Center in Macon. Joyce Findley, AARP instructor, is pictured above going over various topics for safe driving on the road. The class is a combination of instructor led training, as well as, video.

The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is sponsoring some AARP Safe Driver Courses around the district. Two classes have already been held in Macon on May 8 and May 13. Another class is scheduled to be held in Troy in July. The classes held in Macon had approximately 20 students in each classes, which is the maximum AARP allows.

The classes are geared toward individuals age 50 and over. Participants receive a certificate good for three years, which could possibly entitle them to a reduction in their auto insurance premiums.

Topics covered in the class include, defensive driving techniques, rules of the road and automobile technology changes, just to name a few.



Shown above is an activity that was done at the Gear Up Roadshow held on May 6 at the Hannibal maintenance facility. In this particular activity, the mentor was leading the blindfolded student through a maze on the piece of paper.

On Mon., May 6, the Northeast District held their Gear Up Roadshow at the Hannibal Maintenance facility.

For more info

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Kansas City
District

KC Scout Hosts 2013 TIM Symposium

by Gina Myles



Customer Relations Specialist Gina Myles greets symposium attendees upon their arrival.

Kansas City Scout hosted its annual Traffic Incident Management Symposium on April 25 at Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo. The symposium was held in conjunction with the 2013 Missouri Valley Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (MOVITE) Spring Meeting, was attended by more than 80 people and provided an opportunity for information sharing.

National guest speaker, Chuck York, of Gannett Fleming in State College, Pa. spoke about the ABC's of Traffic Incident Management including the importance of responder safety, safe quick clearance and prompt reliable, interoperable communication. Regional speaker, Pam Holt, a trauma nurse from Springfield, Missouri's Mercy Hospital, delivered a candid presentation on responder responsibilities, and the need for safety.

For the first time this year, the symposium also included traffic engineers. All attendees discussed this year's winter weather events

which will help to plan for future weather incidents. MoDOT Traffic Center Manager Jason Sims also talked about the streaming video which will be coming to all of Scout's partners in the very near future.

Strong Support for New I-49 Interchange at 211th

by Steve Porter

More than 60 people turned out at a May 9 open house public meeting to learn more about a planned new I-49 interchange at 211th Street in Peculiar.

The new diverging diamond interchange, to be paid for by both MoDOT and the City of Peculiar, would add a second highway access for the growing Cass County community of 3,000.

Design consultant George Butler Associates and MoDOT expect the new interchange to cost about \$12 million to build, with construction beginning in 2015. The project also will improve 211th Street from Peculiar Drive on the west to School Road on the east.

The interchange will offer direct access to the sprawling Raymore-Peculiar Schools campus just north of 211th and east of School Road. Currently there is no direct access to the campus, which includes an elementary school, a middle school and a high school. High traffic volumes and congestion, particularly prior to and after school, and during school events, is partly caused by the indirect access to campus by way of School Road.

The new interchange also will offer immediate access to the west side of the interstate, a vast area of developable ground that has ample utility feeds for industry or commercial use.

Public involvement consultants Vireo produced brochures, displays and organized the public meeting. Most people attending the meeting were pleased that the new interchange will offer something sorely lacking last summer, when the town's only interchange on I-49 was severely restricted for more than a month during a bridge redecking project. The new diverging diamond interchange at I-49 and 211th will allow commuter traffic to access the highway more quickly, avoiding a busy truck refueling center at the existing interchange at Routes C and J. It also provides a second route for emergency responders to get to and from east and west sides of Peculiar, which is divided by the highway.



Transportation Project Manager Allan Ludiker and Senior Highway Designer Thankam Mathew answer a customer's question about the I-49 and 211th interchange design. Photo: Vireo

In addition to the open house public meeting, MoDOT is also inviting input through an online public meeting through May 23.

Enter In

The World of Multi-Talented MoDOT Employee Jason Sims

by Gina Myles

His daily job managing the KC Scout Traffic Management System keeps Jason Sims busy, but his side gig as a professional musician just took Sims to another level with the debut of his single "Enter In," which had its national release on April 28, 2013. The gospel/jazz CD single was written, performed and produced by Sims and was released through Fresh Oil Music and BMI Publishing. A full CD will follow in 2014.

"Enter In" is a worship single with two bonus tracks, "David's Harp" and "I Love You Lord." It features praise music crafted with beautiful lyrics, soulful harmonies and melodic saxophone lines that are unique and inspirational. Sims' wife LaSandra is the lead vocalist on the CD. The response for the single has been overwhelming.



KC Traffic Center Manager Jason Sims

The Kansas City Star did a feature story on Sims and his music is in rotation on local gospel stations. Nationally syndicated radio programs and social media response has been awesome as well. His Web page www.jasonsimsmusic.com, released the same day as the CD, is receiving around 10,000-15,000 hits per day.

"MoDOT folks have been coming by my office after hearing about things on social media, reading the Star article and on the radio. It's becoming bigger and bigger daily, and it's definitely over what I expected with just a single and is humbling," said Sims.

A Kansas City, Ks. native, Sims grew up in the church and began playing instruments at an early age. In middle school, he began his affair with his most renowned instrument, the tenor saxophone and his love for music took root. An accomplished musician, he also plays the soprano sax, flute, organ, piano, acoustic guitar and percussion. His passion for music shines as brightly as his passion for Scout and Intelligent Transportation Systems. In both areas of his life he displays creativity, vision and originality.

His single is available on all the music distribution sites including iTunes, Google Play, Amazon, Spotify and others. His website www.jasonsimsmusic.com contains more information about his CD and music.

For more info

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600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Meet Our New District Maintenance Engineer

Randy Aulbur will begin work on Monday as the Central District's new maintenance engineer. Aulbur currently serves as the resident engineer for the Nevada Project Office in the Southwest District. He replaces Mark Giessinger, who retired at the end of April.

Aulbur has worked for MoDOT for almost 12 years. During his time with the department, he has worked on teams overseeing the construction of the Missouri River Bridge in Hermann and the upgrading of Highway 71 to Interstate 49. In addition, he has experience in administering paving projects, maintenance repairs, safety improvements and bridge redecks and replacements.

"I am excited for the opportunity to lead the Central District's maintenance division and plan to hit the ground running," Aulbur said. "I am looking forward to becoming a member of the Central District team."

As the district's maintenance engineer, Aulbur will be responsible for the coordination of all roadway maintenance operations, including budget, personnel and equipment distribution.



Randy Aulbur is the district's new maintenance engineer.

A licensed professional engineer, Aulbur holds an associate's degree in pre-engineering from Moberly Area Community College and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Randy loves spending time with his wife and six children (four boys, two girls, and #7 on the way). He is a big Cardinal baseball and Missouri Tigers fan. He enjoys playing basketball, baseball, and golf when he has the chance.

2013 Work Schedule Available

With the wet spring seemingly behind us, the 2013 construction and maintenance season has now begun in earnest. Central District crews are busy with a variety of maintenance and construction activities, including striping pavement, mowing grass and improving roadways.

To help motorists navigate the work taking place in mid-Missouri this construction season, the district has compiled a list of scheduled maintenance and construction projects. The list can be found at www.modot.org/central. Click on the Road Work tab.

"This is the time of year when work zones begin cropping up, and this list will help motorists know when and where work is taking place," said Central District Engineer David Silvester.



Central District maintenance crews clean ditches in Callaway County.

The list is broken down by county and notes whether the work will take place during the day or at night and when the project will be finished. According to Silvester, cCrews will work to keep traffic disruptions to a minimum, but motorists should be prepared for minor delays throughout the construction season.

In addition to the 2013 work zone list, travelers are encouraged to always check out MoDOT's Traveler Information Map at www.modot.org to get the latest road conditions.

Public Meetings Aplenty!

The Central District has been busy this month planning a trio of public meetings. Customer Relations staff worked with personnel from the Design and Planning divisions to present plans to the public concerning three separate projects:

- May 7 - Replacing the Route 41 bridge over the Lamine River in Cooper County. The bridge replacement is scheduled to take place during the spring and summer of 2014.
- May 14 - Replacing the bridge on Route D over the BNSF railroad in Phelps County and realigning a short section of roadway. Construction will take place in 2014.
- May 16 - Adding a center turn lane and four-foot shoulders to Routes 19 and 28 in Owensville. Construction is planned for this year.



Central District Project Manager Mike Dusenberg and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner, center, visit with attendees at a May 7 public meeting regarding the replacement of the Route 41 bridge over the Lamine River in Cooper County.

Additional project information can be found on the district's website – www.modot.org/central.

District Happenings



Maintenance Superintendent Charlie Schroyer (right) presents a certificate to Mary Jane Bruning honoring her 18 years of dedicated service to MoDOT. Mary Jane retired April 30 as a maintenance crew leader at the Cuba Maintenance Facility. Looking on is Cuba Maintenance Supervisor Bob Cunningham.



As we celebrate MoDOT's 100th birthday this year, here are some fun facts about the Central District's history:

- The Central District Office was built in 1938, so we're 75!
- Air conditioning was added to the building in 1954.
- The garage and penthouse were added in 1960.
- The building's most recent remodeling took place in 1996 and 1997.

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MoDOT Team Goes Above and Beyond Assisting Crash During Ribbon Cutting

by Kara Price

MoDOT St. Louis and the City of St. Clair recently celebrated the new Interstate 44 North Outer Road and Route 47 interchange project in Franklin County with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

However, during the ceremony there was an unexpected turn of events when a two-vehicle crash took place near the ceremony while in progress. A truck collided into a smaller car on Route 47 north of I-44 in front of a vacant lot where the ceremony was being held shortly after it got under way.

The City of St. Clair mayor was speaking to 30 attendees about the future economic development and safety improvements to the area. Suddenly, attendees heard tires squeal followed by the impact of the crash. Several attendees, including half a dozen MoDOT employees, the mayor, a newspaper reporter and a few local business owners, jumped to the rescue. Until law enforcement and emergency personnel arrived, the group called 911, checked on the drivers of the vehicles to see if they were OK, grabbed an emergency first-aid kit and immediately put on safety gear to help direct traffic around the crash scene as it blocked both lanes on Route 47. One of the drivers had injuries, but there were no fatalities.

This crash was not caused by the ceremony taking place and was not considered a distraction to motorists. According to the police report, a woman not involved in the crash caused the accident making an illegal left-turn on northbound Route 47.

"I am very proud of my fellow area team members and our community leaders in St. Clair for going above and beyond in helping assist our law enforcement and emergency response partners during this sudden situation that wasn't related to us," said Judy Wagner, MoDOT area engineer for Franklin and Jefferson Counties. "A special thanks goes to our MoDOT employees for keeping traffic moving through the busy I-44 and Route 47 intersection: Christine Redhage, resident engineer for Franklin and Jefferson Counties; Kevin Koch, senior construction inspector; Bruce Wright, senior construction technician; Kara Price, senior community relations specialist.

After about 40 minutes of directing traffic, everyone involved with the ceremony regrouped and continued. MoDOT, local elected officials and community leaders discussed the significance and benefits of this construction project and cut the ribbon.



Christine Redhage, MoDOT resident engineer for Franklin / Jefferson Counties (right), was one of the first to step in and help ensure safety directing traffic around the crash.



MoDOT and the City of St. Clair made several improvements over the past year at this interchange that will greatly enhance safety and efficiency of traffic flow. They include:
-Relocated the North Outer Road away from the interchange to improve intersection spacing.
-Signalized Route 47 intersections with the eastbound and westbound I-44 ramps, and the relocated North Outer Road.

The new interchange configuration now can accommodate the growth of St. Clair's future industrial and commercial development.

MoDOT, City of St. Clair, local elected officials and community leaders cut the ribbon to mark the completion of construction for the new Interstate 44 North Outer Road and Route 47 interchange project.

On the Move Mobile Tours in Full Swing

by Kara Price

photo by Linda Wilson Horn

MoDOT is hitting the road to continue the "On the Move" conversation with mobile tours throughout the state.

There have been spring events where several tours have taken place that were successful in engaging people in a conversation about Missouri's transportation needs:

- Tartan Day festivities, St. Charles
- St. Louis Earth Day, Forest Park
- Valley of Flowers Festival, Florissant
- Cinco de Mayo, downtown St. Louis

Thank you to all the ambassadors and volunteers that have played a big part in these tours. These events attract hundreds to thousands of Missourians that are key to improving our state roads.

Over the summer, keep a look out for the bright orange On the Move vehicle in St. Louis to continue this important conversation about Missouri's transportation future.

- Annie Malone Parade, May 19
- Annie Malone Community Fair, June 15
- Drivin Out Hunger, June 15-18

For specific details on events, follow the St. Louis district on Twitter.



MoDOT St. Louis North County Area Engineer Larry Welty (right) discusses the importance of Missouri's transportation future with an attendee at the Tartan Days festivities in St. Charles.

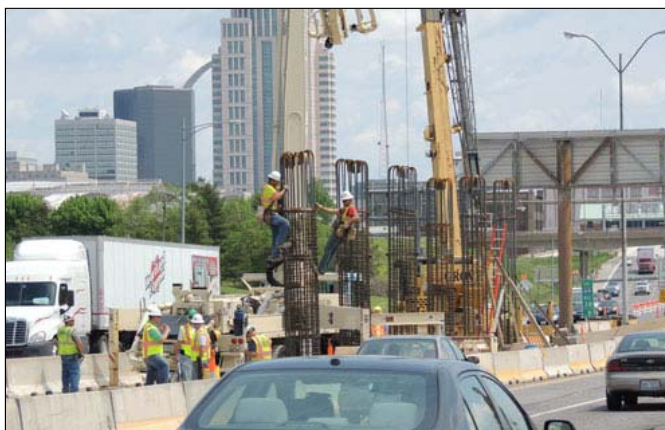
Jefferson Bridge Replacement Underway

by Andrew Gates

MoDOT has removed the Jefferson Bridge over Interstate 64 in St. Louis City and is working on replacing it. This bridge will be built in the same location with a higher bridge clearance over the interstate to meet current standards.

The bridge will also be widened to accommodate traffic for a future construction project that will make Jefferson Avenue a full interchange. The sidewalks will be wider and ADA accessible. Shared bike lanes will be included on the new bridge as well.

For more information on this project, visit modot.org/stlouis



Iron workers from Fred Weber (contractor for project) construct the reinforcing steel for the new Jefferson Avenue Bridge foundation in St. Louis City.

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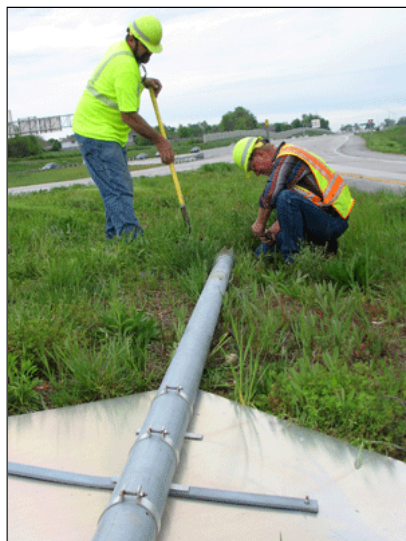
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SIGN MAINTENANCE: Putting up a sign that had been knocked down along a ramp at Route 60/65 in Springfield are Senior Maintenance Worker Clint Eidson, left, and Maintenance Crew Leader Bob Lawrence of the Springfield shop. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



KEEPING EQUIPMENT RUNNING: Servicing a tractor to be used for this month's mowing is Joplin Senior Equipment Technician Khoa Nguyen. (Photo by LeAnn Blankenship)



ENGAGING THE PUBLIC: District Planning Manager Frank Miller surveys visitors to the Springfield Arts Fest to gather public comments for MoDOT's long-range transportation plan. This is part of the "Missouri On the Move" initiative. Visit missourionthemove.org (Photo by Becky Baltz)



NETWORKING: Springfield Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Brian Doubrava, right, explains Transportation Management Center operations to Missouri Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Missouri" participants who visited the Southwest District complex to see MoDOT operations. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

SW District Rehabilitating / Replacing 13 Bridges in 2013

by Angela Eden

Bridge work is an important component of the Southwest District's 2013 construction picture, with 13 bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects scheduled.

Several projects are under way, three projects are scheduled to begin right after Memorial Day and three more in mid-July.

Yes, the multi-year Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program, which included 135 bridge projects in the Southwest District, was completed in 2012. But many bridge needs remain, and the district continues to chip away at the list.

The 2014-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program has more than 30 bridges in the Southwest District that will be either replaced or rehabilitated. That's a mark of the district's progress made in recent years as part of and in addition to Safe & Sound.

As Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury put it, the district's bridge program is "in very good shape."

The district also is doing its normal bridge maintenance work, including sweeping and flushing away debris and salt residue.

"We have a regular maintenance plan to keep our existing bridges in good condition," District Bridge Engineer Dave O'Connor said. "We try to get as many years out of our bridges as possible."

The Projects for 2013

Nearly completed are projects to repair and paint the Route 39 bridge over Table Rock Lake in Shell Knob and to replace the Route 160 (West Bypass) bridge over I-44 in Springfield.

In Joplin, the two I-44 bridges over Range Line Road are being replaced as part of the reconstruction of that interchange and conversion to a Diverging Diamond Interchange.

Late May will see work begin to replace the Route 52/Mulberry Creek bridge near Amoret. Rehabilitation work will begin on the Dade County Route CC bridge over Stockton Lake east of Greenfield and the St. Clair County Route H bridge over Little Osage River south of Taberville.

In July, work begins to replace bridges on Jasper County Route O/Spring River near Alba, Route 73/Coatney Branch north of Buffalo and Dallas County Route F/Greasy Creek south of Buffalo.

Also on the calendar is work to repair the northbound Route 65 bridge over the Finley River in Ozark, replace the northbound Route 65 bridge over Farmers Branch north of Ozark and replace the Benton County Route T bridge over Truman Lake near Lincoln.

Missouri Business Executives Get Flavor of MoDOT Operations

by Bob Edwards

Last week, Southwest District personnel from several departments demonstrated MoDOT operations for business leaders from across Missouri.

The 30 executives are taking part in the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry's statewide leadership and networking program. It takes them to a different community each month to find out how other business enterprises and some government agencies work.

District Engineer Becky Baltz went through the leadership program in 2012 and offered the Southwest District as a place to visit this year when the group hit Springfield. The executives also had sessions at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Expedia, Springfield-Branson National Airport, Springfield Underground, the Springfield Cardinals and the Jordan Valley Research Facility.

Maintenance, Traffic and Incident Response employees spoke about their jobs and provided hands-on work and safety activities.

At the Springfield Maintenance complex, Leadership Missouri visitors tried their hand at striping on the back lot, steered the impaired-driving "go-cart," heard a presentation about how staffers respond to highway emergencies and handle oversized loads and viewed traffic cameras, emergency communications equipment, a traffic signal controller and an electronic message board.

Baltz also had the business executives fill out "feedback forms" for the Missouri on the Move initiative so their ideas for future projects will be considered along with those of thousands of other Missourians being surveyed into early July.

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Southeast District

MoDOT to Hold Hearing to Discuss Proposed Scott City Interchange

[Attend Online Now!](#)

MoDOT's Southeast District will hold a public hearing from 4 to 6 p.m. May 23 to discuss construction of an interchange south of Scott City. The hearing will be held at the Kelso City Hall, located at 426 S. Messmer in Kelso.

The proposed interchange would provide access to south Scott City, as well as a connection from Interstate 55 to Kelso. Additionally, the project would relieve congestion at the Route 61/K/M/I-55 interchange.

MoDOT is currently working to gain environmental clearances.

"Once funding becomes available, MoDOT will be ready to move forward with this project and begin the design phase," said Transportation Project Manager Eric Krapf.

MoDOT is examining two options for constructing the interchange. The two alternates include constructing the interchange near the Route PP crossing. MoDOT will share the alternatives with the public at the meeting.

For more information, please contact Krapf at (573) 472-5261, Transportation Project Designer David Blalock at (573) 472-5295 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636). An online meeting, including the meeting handout and an opportunity to comment, is available at:

www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings.



To view alternates A & B, please click the image above.

SE Coalition for Roadway Safety Offers Law Enforcement Grants

[Applications Due by May 31](#)

ARRIVE ALIVE
SOUTHEAST REGION
www.savemolives.com
2014 Application for Law Enforcement Funding

Agency: _____ Contact: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Activity
Overtime Enforcement

Proposed Date(s)	Overtime Hours	Rate of Overtime Pay	Total
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED:			\$ 0.00

Equipment

Description	Quantity	Total
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED:		\$ 0.00

Law enforcement grant applications are due by May 31. Click the link above to access the application.

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is a partnership of safety advocates including law enforcement agencies, health care providers, state and federal government agencies, planning

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is now accepting law enforcement grant applications for the 2014 contract year. Law enforcement grants can be used to help cover the cost of overtime and equipment for checkpoints, saturation patrols and law enforcement. Applications will be accepted through Fri., May 31.

Grants are carefully reviewed and awarded based on greatest need and the proposed impact on reducing fatalities and injuries. Verification of a departmental seat belt policy and agency involvement with the Coalition will also be considered.

Applications are available at www.savemolives.com/southeast/resources.html or by request. For more information please contact:

Sandy Taurone - Regional Contact for the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety

MoDOT, Southeast Region, 2675 N. Main, P.O. Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801

Phone: 573-472-5388, Fax: 573-472-5265, E-Mail: Sandra.Taurone@modot.mo.gov

Lt. John R. Davis - Chairman for the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety

Cape Girardeau Police Department, 40 S. Sprigg St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Phone: 573-335-6621 x1095, E-Mail: JDavis@cityofcapegirardeau.org

organizations and advocacy groups that work to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes in Missouri. The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety covers 25 counties in Southeast Missouri.

For additional information, please visit www.savemolives.com/southeast/index.html.

KFVS12 Focuses on Work Zone Safety



A KFVS12 news crew recently contacted MoDOT's Southeast District to discuss the importance of work zone safety. The news crew visited a work zone with District Construction and Materials Engineer Andy Meyer. While visiting, many drivers were caught speeding through the work zone by the on-site speed board. Meyer explained that while speeding is one of the top contributing factors to work zone incidents, driving too closely and inattention were actually the top two contributing factors in 2012. Watch KFVS12's work zone footage and interviews with Meyer and MoDOT's contractor at www.kfvs12.com or by clicking the video link to the left.

For more info

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We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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